

VHCURES 2.0 Request for Proposals
Essay Questions

Please note, each questions specifies a page limit for vendor answers. We have assumed the use of size 12 Arial, 1.5 spacing, with 1-inch margins in these specifications.

Questions for all bidders:

1. Describe your approach to using the high-level requirements listed in Section 3 to develop detailed business requirements and ultimately to define detailed system specifications that will be used for creation of the actual system. Be sure to include how State personnel will be involved and to explain the approval process for system specifications. (2 page limit)
2. Confirm that you understand that this is a fixed price bid. Describe why you are confident in your fixed price bid, given that detailed business requirements have not yet been defined. (1 page limit)
3. Describe your approach to creating the Requirements Traceability Matrix and how this will be used in conjunction with the Testing Plan in order to ensure the project delivers on its specifications. (1 page limit)
4. Describe your approach to the development of additional system functionality during operational years (beyond the hours of development requested in 4.2.2 as part of annual maintenance) and how this approach maximizes value while minimizing costs to the GMCB. (Limit 2 pages)
5. Describe the proposed approach to data quality assurance, including any processes for data quality around data receipt, data warehousing, data validation, and data transformation. (2 page limit)
6. Discuss how the proposed staff are sufficient from a capacity standpoint to conduct the work needed on this project. (1 page limit)
7. For all staff proposed (outlined in question 6), provide a table that lists all other projects each staff person will be assigned in addition to the work for the GMCB and acknowledge that this table will be updated monthly during the project. (1 page limit)
8. If applicable, list all firms you are sub-contracting with in order to comply with the requirements and summarize why this approach is the most advantageous for the GMCB to consider. Otherwise please confirm that the scope will be met by a single vendor. (2 page limit)
9. In as narrative a form as possible, please describe how the algorithm(s) for the MPI solution will work in creating person identifiers, and how the accuracy of the person identifiers will be measured over time. Please also describe the level of confidence in the integrity of the algorithms with respect to re-identification, including any metrics or processes the used to ensure that the resulting person ID can't be correlated to a specific individual. (2 page limit)

10. Please describe how privacy controls will be configured between personally identifiable information and medical information. (2 page limit)
11. The State would like to use the National Provider Identifier (NPI) as its base identifier on claims and in provider tables for both the rendering and billing provider. Currently, while this is a required field, it is not consistently provided and when it is present, it is occasionally incorrect. Please describe how you would improve the reliability of these fields, including both validation of submitted information and imputation of missing information. Please also identify reference and information sources that would be used to impute missing information. (1 page limit)
12. The State intends to use several different groupers in its analytic work, including diagnosis related groups, one or more severity of illness measures, and a variety of episode of care groupers. Please describe the process by which a grouper or other software licensed by the state could be used in the proposed data management / analytical environment. What issues does the vendor(s) foresee in doing this? What experience does the vendor(s) have with the use of the proposed groupers? (2 page limit)
13. Please describe the vendor's approach to geographic referencing on claims and other data, including how risks are managed relative to the inadvertent identification of a particular person in a rural area due to small population sizes (i.e., describe how the vendor will take into consideration that Vermont is a small rural state when applying geocoding). Please also describe any functions or services being provided through subcontractors in this regard. As background information, the GMCB is interested in where patients reside and where they receive services. With respect to providers, the GMCB is interested in where the services were rendered, where physicians are employed, and the location of the billing provider for the services. (1 page limit)
14. The GMCB is developing a data governance strategy, a focus of which will be the quality of the claims data. Please describe how your approach can support the GMCB in providing active stewardship of this information resource by monitoring data quality issues, flexibly responding to newly identified quality issues, and measuring the effectiveness of the implementation of the governance program in improving data quality. (1 page limit)
15. Please describe how the vendor anticipates coordinating the transition between the existing VHCURES solution and the future solution, with emphasis on any expected interfaces between the operations of the two solutions (ex. data migration, data conversion), and with respect to continuity of operations and services to the State. (3 page limit)
16. Please describe the hosting methodology and be sure to comment on network security that will be utilized in the solution. (2 page limit)
17. Please describe the planned approach to training the State and State-authorized users on the proposed analytic tool(s). Be sure to include a description of how you will develop and maintain documented training materials for purposes of user acceptance testing, and system training ahead of go-live (just in time training), and how training material will be updated and training will be provided during operational years . (2 page limit)
18. List and describe the national data standards that are related to this project and how these standards have impacted your proposed implementation strategy. (2 page limit)

19. The GMCB is introducing new types of information into its all-payer dataset. One requirement of this RFP is to assist the GMCB in working collaboratively with payers to develop the requirements and file specifications to collect provider-related and member-related non-claims based expenditures. Please describe the proposed process for meeting this contractual requirement. (2 page limit)
20. Healthcare payment reform in Vermont is focused on moving away from fee-for-service payments towards payments for episodes of care. Describe how your solution will be agile enough to smoothly transition from claims-based fiscal information to other types of payment structures. (2 page limit)